Таинственный гость
The Mysterious Guest

Анна жила в маленьком городе на берегу моря.
Anna lived in small city on shore of-sea.
[Anna lived in a small city by the sea.]

Каждое утро она вставала рано и шла на работу в кафе.
Each morning she got-up early and went to work in café.
[Every morning she got up early and went to work at a café.]

Кафе называлось "Волна" и находилось прямо на набережной.
Café was-called "Wave" and was-located directly on embankment.
[The café was called "The Wave" and was located right on the waterfront.]

Анна работала там официанткой уже три года.
Anna worked there as-waitress already three years.
[Anna had been working there as a waitress for three years.]

Однажды утром, когда Анна открывала кафе, она заметила что-то странное.
One morning, when Anna was-opening café, she noticed something strange.

На одном из столиков у окна сидел человек.
On one of tables by window sat person.
[At one of the tables by the window sat a person.]

Но кафе было закрыто! Как он вошёл внутрь?
But café was closed! How he entered inside?
[But the café was closed! How did he get inside?]

— Извините, — сказала Анна, — но мы ещё не открыты.
"Excuse-me," said Anna, "but we yet not opened."
["Excuse me," said Anna, "but we're not open yet."]

Человек повернулся к ней. Это был пожилой мужчина с седыми волосами и добрыми глазами.
Person turned to her. This was elderly man with gray hair and kind eyes.
[The person turned to her. It was an elderly man with gray hair and kind eyes.]

— Я знаю, — ответил он спокойно. — Но мне нужно было с вами поговорить.

"I know," answered he calmly. "But to-me was-necessary with you to-talk."
["I know," he answered calmly. "But I needed to talk with you."]

Анна почувствовала себя неловко. Кто был этот человек?
Anna felt herself awkwardly. Who was this person?
[Anna felt uncomfortable. Who was this person?]

— Вы меня знаете? — спросила она осторожно.
"You me know?" asked she carefully.
["Do you know me?" she asked carefully.]

— Не совсем, — улыбнулся старик. — Но я знал вашу бабушку.
"Not quite," smiled old-man. "But I knew your grandmother."

Анна была удивлена. Её бабушка умерла пять лет назад.
Anna was surprised. Her grandmother died five years ago.

— Моя бабушка? Вы были её другом?
"My grandmother? You were her friend?"

Старик кивнул и достал из кармана старую фотографию.
Old-man nodded and took-out from pocket old photograph.

На фотографии Анна увидела свою бабушку молодой, стоящую рядом с этим же человеком.
On photograph Anna saw her grandmother young, standing next-to with this same person.
[In the photograph Anna saw her grandmother as a young woman, standing next to this same person.]

— Меня зовут Виктор, — сказал он. — Много лет назад ваша бабушка помогла мне в трудную минуту.
"Me they-call Viktor," said he. "Many years ago your grandmother helped to-me in difficult minute."
["My name is Viktor," he said. "Many years ago your grandmother helped me in a difficult moment."]

— Я был молодым художником без денег и без дома.
"I was young artist without money and without home."

— Она давала мне бесплатный обед каждый день в этом самом кафе.
"She gave to-me free lunch each day in this very café."
[She gave me a free lunch every day in this very café.]

— Благодаря ей я не умер с голоду и смог продолжать рисовать.
"Thanks-to her I not died from hunger and was-able to-continue to-draw."
[Thanks to her I didn't starve and was able to continue painting.]

Анна слушала, не веря своим ушам.
Anna listened, not believing to-her ears.
[Anna listened, not believing her ears.]

Её бабушка никогда не рассказывала ей эту историю.
Her grandmother never not told to-her this story.
[Her grandmother had never told her this story.]

— Со временем я стал известным художником, — продолжал Виктор.
"With time I became famous artist," continued Viktor.
[Over time I became a famous artist," Viktor continued.]

— Но я никогда не забывал доброту вашей бабушки.
"But I never not forgot kindness of-your grandmother."
[But I never forgot your grandmother's kindness.]

— Я хотел отблагодарить её, но когда я вернулся в этот город, было уже поздно.
"I wanted to-thank her, but when I returned to this city, was already late."
[I wanted to thank her, but when I returned to this city, it was already too late.]

Он достал из сумки сверток, завёрнутый в ткань.
He took-out from bag package, wrapped in cloth.

— Поэтому я хочу отдать это вам, — сказал Виктор, протягивая сверток Анне.
"Therefore I want to-give this to-you," said Viktor, extending package to-Anna.

Анна развернула ткань и ахнула.
Anna unwrapped cloth and gasped.

Внутри была картина — прекрасный портрет её бабушки.
Inside was painting — beautiful portrait of-her grandmother.

— Я писал её много лет назад, когда она была молодой, — объяснил Виктор.
"I painted her many years ago, when she was young," explained Viktor.

— Я всегда хотел, чтобы она получила эту картину, но не смог найти её.
"I always wanted, that she received this painting, but not was-able to-find her."
[I always wanted her to receive this painting, but couldn't find her.]

— Теперь она принадлежит вам. Это моя благодарность за всё, что она для меня сделала.
"Now she belongs to-you. This my gratitude for all, that she for me did."
[Now it belongs to you. This is my gratitude for everything she did for me.]

Анна почувствовала, как слёзы наполнили её глаза.
Anna felt, how tears filled her eyes.
[Anna felt tears fill her eyes.]

— Спасибо, — прошептала она. — Это так много значит для меня.
"Thank-you," whispered she. "This so much means for me."
[Thank you," she whispered. "This means so much to me.]

Виктор улыбнулся и встал со стула.
Viktor smiled and stood from chair.
[Viktor smiled and stood up from his chair.]

— Доброта возвращается, — сказал он. — Всегда помните об этом.
"Kindness returns," said he. "Always remember about this."
[Kindness comes back," he said. "Always remember that.]

Когда Виктор вышел из кафе, Анна посмотрела на картину.
When Viktor went-out from café, Anna looked at painting.

Её бабушка смотрела на неё с холста молодыми, счастливыми глазами.
Her grandmother looked at her from canvas with-young, happy eyes.
[Her grandmother looked at her from the canvas with young, happy eyes.]

В тот день Анна поняла важный урок: маленькие добрые дела могут изменить чью-то жизнь.
On that day Anna understood important lesson: small kind deeds can to-change someone's life.
[That day Anna understood an important lesson: small acts of kindness can change someone's life.]

И кто знает? Может быть, однажды эта доброта вернётся к тебе.
And who knows? Maybe, one-day this kindness will-return to you.
[And who knows? Maybe one day that kindness will come back to you.]

С того момента Анна всегда старалась помогать людям, как это делала её бабушка.
From that moment Anna always tried to-help to-people, as this did her grandmother.
[From that moment on, Anna always tried to help people, just as her grandmother had done.]

Картина висела на стене кафе, напоминая всем посетителям о силе доброты.
Painting hung on wall of-café, reminding to-all visitors about force of-kindness.
[The painting hung on the café wall, reminding all visitors about the power of kindness.]

И каждый раз, когда Анна смотрела на портрет, она чувствовала, что её бабушка всё ещё рядом с ней.
And each time, when Anna looked at portrait, she felt, that her grandmother all still near with her.
[And every time Anna looked at the portrait, she felt that her grandmother was still close to her.]

КОНЕЦ / THE END

Vocabulary Notes / Заметки по словарю:

Key words and phrases:
- берег моря (shore of sea) = seaside
- набережная (embankment) = waterfront/promenade
- официантка (waitress) = female server
- пожилой (elderly) = older person
- неловко (awkwardly) = uncomfortable/awkward
- с голоду (from hunger) = of starvation
- благодарность (gratitude) = thankfulness
- доброта (kindness) = goodness
- сила (force/strength) = power

Useful expressions:

- Меня зовут... (Me they call...) = My name is...
- Благодаря + dative (thanks to)
- Не веря своим ушам (not believing one's ears) = hardly believing
- Со временем (with time) = over time
- Кто знает? (Who knows?)

Жемчужина
The Pearl

A story in the style of Maupassant

Михаил Петрович был чиновником в маленьком министерстве.
Mikhail Petrovich was official in small ministry.
[Mikhail Petrovich was a clerk in a small government ministry.]

Он работал там двадцать лет, получал скромную зарплату и жил тихой, серой жизнью.
He worked there twenty years, received modest salary and lived quiet, gray life.
[He had worked there for twenty years, received a modest salary, and lived a quiet, dull life.]

У него была жена, Елена Ивановна, которая постоянно жаловалась на их бедность.
At him was wife, Elena Ivanovna, who constantly complained about their poverty.
[He had a wife, Elena Ivanovna, who constantly complained about their poverty.]

— Посмотри на соседей! — говорила она каждый вечер.
"Look at neighbors!" said she each evening.
["Look at the neighbors!" she said every evening.]

— У них новая мебель, дорогие платья, они ездят в театр!
"At them new furniture, expensive dresses, they go to theater!"
[They have new furniture, expensive dresses, they go to the theater!]

— А мы? Мы живём как нищие!
"And we? We live like beggars!"

Михаил Петрович молчал. Что он мог сказать? Это была правда.
Mikhail Petrovich was-silent. What he could to-say? This was truth.

[Mikhail Petrovich remained silent. What could he say? It was the truth.]

Однажды в министерство пришло письмо.
One-day to ministry came letter.
[One day a letter arrived at the ministry.]

Директор вызвал Михаила Петровича в свой кабинет.
Director called Mikhail Petrovich to his office.

— Поздравляю вас! — сказал директор с улыбкой.
"Congratulate you!" said director with smile.
["I congratulate you!" said the director with a smile.]

— Ваша покойная тётя оставила вам наследство.
"Your late aunt left to-you inheritance."

Михаил Петрович не мог поверить своим ушам.
Mikhail Petrovich not could to-believe to-his ears.
[Mikhail Petrovich couldn't believe his ears.]

Тётя, которую он видел всего два раза в жизни, оставила ему наследство!
Aunt, whom he saw only two times in life, left to-him inheritance!
[An aunt whom he had only seen twice in his life had left him an inheritance!]

— Сколько? — спросил он, дрожащим голосом.
"How-much?" asked he, with-trembling voice.

— Пятьдесят тысяч рублей, — ответил директор.
"Fifty thousand rubles," answered director.

Пятьдесят тысяч! Это было состояние!
Fifty thousand! This was fortune!
[Fifty thousand! It was a fortune!]

Михаил Петрович бежал домой, как молодой человек.
Mikhail Petrovich ran home, like young person.
[Mikhail Petrovich ran home like a young man.]

— Лена! — кричал он. — Мы богаты! Мы наконец-то богаты!
"Lena!" shouted he. "We rich! We finally rich!"

["Lena!" he shouted. "We're rich! We're finally rich!]

Он рассказал жене о наследстве.
He told to-wife about inheritance.
[He told his wife about the inheritance.]

Елена Ивановна заплакала от счастья.
Elena Ivanovna cried from happiness.
[Elena Ivanovna cried with joy.]

— Теперь у нас будет всё! — говорила она.
"Now at us will-be everything!" said she.
["Now we'll have everything!" she said.]

— Новая квартира, красивая мебель, драгоценности!
"New apartment, beautiful furniture, jewels!"

В тот же вечер они начали строить планы.
In that same evening they began to-build plans.
[That very evening they began making plans.]

Они будут покупать, путешествовать, жить как настоящие господа!
They will to-buy, to-travel, to-live like real masters!
[They would shop, travel, live like true gentlefolk!]

Прошла неделя. Михаил Петрович получил деньги.
Passed week. Mikhail Petrovich received money.
[A week passed. Mikhail Petrovich received the money.]

Первым делом они купили новую мебель для гостиной.
First matter they bought new furniture for living-room.
[The first thing they did was buy new furniture for the living room.]

Потом Елена Ивановна заказала три новых платья.
Then Elena Ivanovna ordered three new dresses.

Михаил Петрович купил золотые часы и дорогой костюм.
Mikhail Petrovich bought gold watch and expensive suit.

Каждый день они тратили деньги на что-то новое.
Each day they spent money on something new.

Через месяц Елена Ивановна увидела в ювелирном магазине жемчужное колье.
After month Elena Ivanovna saw in jewelry shop pearl necklace.
[After a month, Elena Ivanovna saw a pearl necklace in a jewelry store.]

Оно было прекрасно — белые жемчужины сияли в витрине.
It was beautiful — white pearls shone in display-window.
[It was beautiful — white pearls gleamed in the display window.]

— Я должна иметь его! — сказала она мужу.
"I must to-have it!" said she to-husband.
["I must have it!" she said to her husband.]

Колье стоило десять тысяч рублей.
Necklace cost ten thousand rubles.

Михаил Петрович колебался. Это было слишком дорого.
Mikhail Petrovich hesitated. This was too expensive.

Но жена умоляла его, и он согласился.
But wife begged him, and he agreed.

С жемчужным колье на шее Елена Ивановна чувствовала себя королевой.
With pearl necklace on neck Elena Ivanovna felt herself queen.
[With the pearl necklace around her neck, Elena Ivanovna felt like a queen.]

Они начали ходить в театр, в рестораны, принимать гостей.
They began to-go to theater, to restaurants, to-receive guests.
[They began going to the theater, to restaurants, entertaining guests.]

Все завидовали их богатству и элегантности.
All envied their wealth and elegance.
[Everyone envied their wealth and elegance.]

Но деньги таяли быстро.
But money melted quickly.
[But the money was melting away quickly.]

Через шесть месяцев у них осталось только пять тысяч рублей.
After six months at them remained only five thousand rubles.
[After six months they had only five thousand rubles left.]

— Не беспокойся, — говорила Елена Ивановна.
"Not worry," said Elena Ivanovna.
["Don't worry," said Elena Ivanovna.]

— Мы будем экономить. У нас ещё есть время.
"We will to-economize. At us still is time."
[We'll economize. We still have time.]

Но они не экономили. Они не могли остановиться.
But they not economized. They not could to-stop.
[But they didn't economize. They couldn't stop.]

Через год деньги закончились полностью.
After year money ended completely.
[After a year the money was completely gone.]

Михаил Петрович и Елена Ивановна снова были бедны.
Mikhail Petrovich and Elena Ivanovna again were poor.

Но теперь всё было хуже, чем раньше.
But now all was worse, than before.
[But now everything was worse than before.]

У них были долги. Кредиторы требовали денег.
At them were debts. Creditors demanded money.
[They had debts. Creditors were demanding money.]

Однажды вечером Елена Ивановна сидела и плакала.
One evening Elena Ivanovna sat and cried.

— Что мы будем делать? — спрашивала она.
"What we will to-do?" asked she.
["What will we do?" she asked.]

Михаил Петрович смотрел на жемчужное колье на её шее.
Mikhail Petrovich looked at pearl necklace on her neck.

— Мы должны продать колье, — сказал он тихо.
"We must to-sell necklace," said he quietly.

Елена Ивановна схватилась за горло.
Elena Ivanovna grabbed at throat.

[Elena Ivanovna clutched at her throat.]

— Нет! Только не это! Это единственное, что у нас осталось!
"No! Only not this! This only-thing, that at us remained!"
[No! Not that! It's the only thing we have left!]

Но выбора не было. На следующий день они пошли к ювелиру.
But choice not was. On next day they went to jeweler.
[But there was no choice. The next day they went to the jeweler.]

Ювелир внимательно осмотрел колье через лупу.
Jeweler attentively examined necklace through magnifying-glass.

Потом он посмотрел на них странным взглядом.
Then he looked at them with-strange look.

— Где вы купили это? — спросил он.
"Where you bought this?" asked he.

— Здесь, в вашем магазине, год назад, — ответил Михаил Петрович.
"Here, in your shop, year ago," answered Mikhail Petrovich.

Ювелир покачал головой.
Jeweler shook head.
[The jeweler shook his head.]

— Невозможно. Мы не продаём такие вещи.
"Impossible. We not sell such things."

— Что вы имеете в виду? — спросила Елена Ивановна, бледнея.
"What you have in mind?" asked Elena Ivanovna, paling.
["What do you mean?" asked Elena Ivanovna, turning pale.]

— Эти жемчужины не настоящие, — сказал ювелир.
"These pearls not real," said jeweler.
["These pearls aren't real," said the jeweler.]

— Это искусная имитация, но всё же имитация.
"This skillful imitation, but all-the-same imitation."
[It's a skillful imitation, but an imitation nonetheless.]

— Они стоят максимум двести рублей.

"They cost maximum two-hundred rubles."
[They're worth two hundred rubles at most.]

Михаил Петрович и Елена Ивановна стояли как окаменевшие.
Mikhail Petrovich and Elena Ivanovna stood like petrified.
[Mikhail Petrovich and Elena Ivanovna stood frozen.]

Десять тысяч рублей за подделку!
Ten thousand rubles for fake!

Они потратили целое состояние на фальшивые жемчужины!
They spent whole fortune on false pearls!

Когда они вышли из магазина, было уже темно.
When they went-out from shop, was already dark.
[When they left the shop, it was already dark.]

Они шли молча по холодным улицам.
They walked silently along cold streets.

Их богатство исчезло. Их мечты разбились.
Their wealth disappeared. Their dreams shattered.

И всё из-за нитки поддельных жемчужин.
And all because-of string of-fake pearls.

— Знаешь, — наконец сказал Михаил Петрович, — может быть, это к лучшему.
"You-know," finally said Mikhail Petrovich, "maybe, this to better."
["You know," Mikhail Petrovich finally said, "maybe it's for the best.]

— По крайней мере, теперь мы знаем цену вещам.
"At least, now we know price to-things."
[At least now we know the value of things.]

Елена Ивановна ничего не ответила.
Elena Ivanovna nothing not answered.
[Elena Ivanovna said nothing.]

Она только крепче сжала поддельное колье в своей руке.
She only tighter squeezed fake necklace in her hand.

КОНЕЦ / THE END

Анекдот: В ресторане
Joke: At the Restaurant

Мужчина приходит в дорогой ресторан.
Man comes to expensive restaurant.
[A man comes to an expensive restaurant.]

Официант приносит меню.
Waiter brings menu.

Мужчина долго смотрит в меню и спрашивает:
Man long looks in menu and asks:
[The man looks at the menu for a long time and asks:]

— Скажите, а у вас есть что-нибудь за двадцать рублей?
"Tell-me, and at you is something for twenty rubles?"
["Tell me, do you have anything for twenty rubles?"]

Официант отвечает вежливо:
Waiter answers politely:

— Конечно, сэр. Вот стакан воды — бесплатно. А ещё дверь — выход на двадцать рублей дешевле!
"Of-course, sir. Here glass of-water — free. And also door — exit on twenty rubles cheaper!"
["Of course, sir. Here's a glass of water — it's free. And also the door — the exit is twenty rubles cheaper!"]

Vocabulary Notes for Story 2:

Key words:
- чиновник (official/clerk) = civil servant
- зарплата (salary) = wages
- наследство (inheritance) = legacy
- состояние (fortune) = wealth
- драгоценности (jewels) = precious things

- жемчужина (pearl)
- колье (necklace)
- ювелир (jeweler) = goldsmith
- подделка (fake) = counterfeit
- кредитор (creditor)

Useful expressions:
- Покойная тётя (late aunt)
- Не мог поверить своим ушам (couldn't believe his ears)
- Первым делом (first thing)
- К лучшему (for the best)
- По крайней мере (at least)